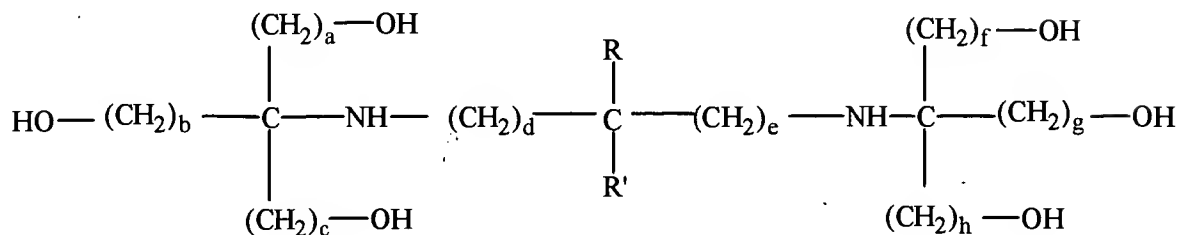


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An aqueous solution for disinfecting a contact lens comprising a microbicide and a compound having the formula



wherein

a, b, c, d, e, f, g, and h are independently integers from 1 to 6; and

R and R' are independently chosen from the group consisting of —H, —CH₃, —(CH₂)₂₋₆—H, and —(CH₂)₁₋₆—OH;

wherein said aqueous solution is substantially free of polyol compounds.

2. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 wherein said compound is provided as a water-soluble salt.
3. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 wherein said compound is provided in a quantity sufficient to maintain said aqueous solution at a pH between about 6.4 and 7.8.
4. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 wherein the concentration of said compound is from about 0.001 to 0.2 molar.
5. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 wherein said compound is 1,3-bis(tris[hydroxymethyl]methylamino)propane.
6. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 wherein said microbicide is selected from the group consisting of polyhexamethylene biguanide, alexidine, hexetidine, N-alkyl-2-pyrrolidinone, chlorhexidine, polyquaternium-1, bronopol, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, hydrogen peroxide, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.

7. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 6 wherein the microbicide is selected from the group consisting of polyhexamethylene biguanide, alexidine, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.
8. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 wherein said microbicide is provided in a quantity sufficient to disinfect a contact lens.
9. (cancelled)
10. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 further comprising a chelating agent.
11. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 10 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.
12. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 further comprising a surfactant.
13. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 12 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of poloxomers, poloxamines, octoxynol, hydroxylated castor oil, and tyloxapol.
14. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 further comprising a tonicity agent.
15. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 14 wherein said tonicity agent is sodium chloride.
16. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 1 further comprising a viscosity modifying agent.
17. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 16 wherein said viscosity modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of lecithin, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and methylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.
18. (currently amended) An aqueous solution for disinfecting a contact lens comprising from 0.1 to 10 ppm of a microbicide selected from the group consisting of polyhexamethylene biguanide and alexidine; and 0.001 to 0.2 mol/L of

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1,3-bis(tris[hydroxymethyl] methylamino)propane or a salt thereof, said solution adjusted to pH 6.8 to 7.5; wherein said aqueous solution is substantially free of polyol compounds.

19 – 20. (cancelled)